

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Award of Military Declarations to CIA Employees

1. As a result of my previous memorandum to you on this subject, dated 31 July 1953, a question was raised as to our legal disabilities to give military awards to CIA personnel. There is attached for your information a memorandum from the Office of the General Counsel which in substance indicates that the law permits a delegation of authority to make military awards only to appropriate officers of the military services who are in positions of command responsibility of a strictly military or naval nature.

2. This subject was discussed at a meeting of the Steering Group, CIA Career Service Board, on 31 August 1953. The Steering Group generally agreed that even if legal authority existed, there should be no effort to secure such a delegation to an individual assigned to CIA. It was believed that the services would not look with favor on a further dispersal of authority to make awards.

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4. At the Steering Group meeting there was also raised the question of whether CIA should attempt to secure an amendment to the Executive Order concerning the Medal of Freedom which would permit the DCI to make such awards. The matter was to be studied further and recommendations will be forthcoming. The Steering Group approved in principle the recommendation of the Honor Awards Board that there be established a program consisting of three civilian medals, which program is similar to that of the Department of State. The authority for such a program already exists in law. For your information the Steering Group also approved the design of the National Security Medal. This material will come to you through another channel.

4 Attachments:

- Att. 1 - Memo dtd 28 Aug 53
to A-DD/A fm OGC
- Att. 2 - Memo for Gen. Cabell
dtd 31 Jul 53 fm L.K.White
- Att. 3 - Cable IN 12939

L. K. WHITE
Acting Deputy Director 78-4718
(Administration) 87 701

- EX. Offr. DD/A:JSW;djm 231089/1
- 1 - Rec. Sec'y CIA CSB
 - 1 - Chairman, Honor Awards Board
 - 1 - DD/A Chrono
 - 1 - DD/A Subject - Personnel. military

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

missing 4 attachments